

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, February 19. 1709.

I Did not purpose to be interrupted any more from the Discourses of Trade ; but this Gentleman, the *Rehearsal*, will every now and then challenge a Reply, and is so noisy he must be answer'd.

The EXPERIMENT mauls his Party, and they cannot digest it ; and he being the Oracle of the Party is trying to rail it down.

I Cannot read his way of managing himself without beginning to be concern'd for him ; the Man is really no Fool, unless it be, that he begins to dote in his old Age — But he must certainly be wrong in the Head, and I think a Chamber at the West End of St. Bedlam, ought to be bespoke for him.

If this be not his Case, it must be the Lunacy of his Party, whose particular Fa-

culty he knows, and is set out to the Life in this short Story.

" A certain Gentleman of the High
 " Party, I do not say a Clergyman,
 " because he shall not say I point all my
 " Darts that way, orders his Friend
 " with whom he Corresponded for-
 " merly in London, always to sup-
 " ply him with what Papers came
 " out in these Publick Controver-
 " sies ; but, says the Gentleman,
 " send me only the Loyal Honest
 " Pieces : Don't plague me with any
 " of these Damn'd Whiggish Pam-
 " phlets and Books, I'll read none of
 " them.

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The *Rehearsal* is certainly the best Author that ever wrote, for such a Gentleman to read ; and as he knows, that 'tis to such a Pur-blind, Nose-led, Priest-ridden Party that he writes ; he assumes a Stile, that none but such can bear to read, Arrogant, Haughty, Triumphant, boasting in the No-Victories of his own forming, singing *Victoria*, when he should sing *Lachrymæ* on all Occasions.

How is all this apply'd to his so often repeated Story of *Abraham Gill* ? How has he vaunted of his Victory ? What a Book is the *Experiment* in the Eyes of his *One-side Readers*, and how stupid must they be that are cajol'd with his Cant upon that Subject ?

How often has that Case been stated for him : Read it again, ye *Sons of the false Prophet*, and see and detest the Falacies you are impos'd upon by : Behold an Abridgement of the Story !

A poor Dissenting Convert from the Church, leaves off his Gown and Cassock, takes a Meeting-House, and preaches in a Country Town, and draws all the Hearers from the Church——How to be rid of him they could not tell, *Preach him down they could not, that is not their Talent*——But they lay a Plot between a set of Priests, and a set of Justices, to press him for a Soldier, and most Barbarously they use him. This Plot serv'd them on two Accounts : 1. To rid the particular Parson of his Intruder, who carry'd away his Hearers, both from him and the Ale-House : And, 2ly, To make an EXPERIMENT upon the Dissenters, by which they might make Havock of their Clergy, and so baulk the Toleration *The shortest Way* : But the Villany is detected, the Man finds Friends to get him out of their Clutches, after most Inhuman Usage——The Case is by his Friends brought to a *Habeas Corpus*, and so to be heard by my Lord Chief Justice Holt, before whom the Man is deliver'd upon a fair Hearing ; the Actors asham'd, sink their Necks out of the Collar, receive a Rebuke, and cry *Peccavi* ; and I do affirm it, that I heard one of the Justices, a very honest Gentleman, make an Acknowledgment, that he was drawn in by a pack of

Rogues, that only design'd the Man's Destruction honestly beg'd Pardon, and desir'd he might not be expos'd.

To let the World see the whole Barbarous Scene, a Book was wrote of the Proceedings, and Entitl'd : THE EXPERIMENT, in which the Affidavits and Certificates, *the same that were produc'd in Court*, were at length set down——They were read in Court, and allow'd in Court ; and I have the attested Copies out of Court, which are Printed ; it is a most clear Case, and I firmly believe every tittle affirm'd there to be true.

For the Satisfaction of the World, all the Vouchers, all the attested Copies of Affidavits, all the Originals of what the Book contain'd, were left at Mr. Skeys, in *Thame-street*, for any that pleas'd to inspect, and Publication made, that it was so for general Satisfaction.

All the Clamours which were rais'd at the poor Man ; at his Orders, which they said were forg'd, at his Morals, which they say were vicious, are answer'd with this ; The Law is open, PROVE and PUNISH : They alledg'd his Orders were forg'd, but because they had not the forg'd Copy, said, they could not proceed to prove, We produc'd the Copy they pretended was forg'd, and offer'd them to Tryal——But then no more News of Prosecution. They alledg'd they could not punish, because the Man was fled and could not be found : We produc'd the Man, and offer'd to give Bail for his standing Judgment, but then no more News of Punishment——The Man in being still, dwells upon the Spot, Preaches to his People, and they have nothing to say to him, but to belch out the Sulphur of a Slandering Tongue.

But to buoy up their own Reputation among their Party, and raise Dust against this Book, which distresses them and plucks them ; the Author being 200 Mile off, they cause it as they say to be answer'd, say all the Certificates are forg'd, the Affidavits Perjur'd and the like——Call the poor Man a Thousand Rogues, and bring in black Stories of his Character to witness against him, tho' by the way, two Things I suppose they avoid.

1. All the Crimes they charge are committed while he preach'd in the Church, and no Pressing him, or Complaint of him was made, then he might be as Wicked as he pleases.
2. They don't offer to shew one Reason, why the Man should be press'd for a Soldier; was he a Whore-master? Will you press all the Whoring Clergy, *Lord have Mercy!* May many a poor Curate say, *he was a Cheat*—— He had forged his Orders, he had been so and so——But still, why must he be a Soldier? He was a sham Knavish Attorney——But must we press all our Knavish Attornies? *Bless us!* It is plain, *let the Man be what he will,* he ought not to have been press'd.

Again, they press'd him not as a Whore-master, a Cheat, a Rogue, &c. but *Quar. Dissenter, Quar. Preacher*; and it was an Experiment upon the Body of *Dissenters*, as has been often told them.

Now the Affidavits being Printed, and the Certificates Printed, the Witnesses Names seen and known: Here comes a Sham Answer, and says, these Men are all Perjur'd, the Certificates all forg'd, and the usual impudence of the Party is join'd to it——And the *Rebearsal* Clamours because it will not reply in Print.

I say, we have told the Story FAIR, I have produc'd Authentick Evidence to every Fact, and am ready to stand by them in a Court of Justice——This he not daring to do, puts off with saying, "This is a new way to End a *Paper War*: We must go to Law to know which Paper is true; to bid us to go to Law is Ridiculous, and shews they have nothing to say for themselves; they pretty well know the Author of the Answer: If the Experiment be not true, there is Scandal enough thrown upon them, let them bring their Action if they think themselves aggriev'd, *Rebearsal No. 36.*"

Now does he not talk like a Mad-man? We do not think our selves aggriev'd at all; he that will be aggriev'd to hear a *Non-furor*, a Persecutor rail, is as fit for an Hospital of FOO'S, as the other is for a Bed-

lam: We know they must rail, they have nothing else for it; the Book is a Goad in their side, it is in their Mouths like bitter Ashes, and a Choak-Pear they cannot swallow——Our Answer is short——You are mistaken, Mr. *Rebearsal*, this is not a *Paper War*, it is a *Queens-Bench-Bar War*, 'tis an Affair of Law, it is before the proper Judges of it; you would fain make a *Paper War* of it, because in Railing and Lying you have the Advantage of the World: But we are before the Judges, there *We brought you* like a Bear to the Stake, or a Drunkard to the Stocks by force; and having put the Ring in your Nose, that *Hook of the Law*, a *Habeas Corpus*; We drag'd you before your Betters, made you a-sham'd, rescu'd the Sacrifice design'd for slaughter out of your bloody hands——And being a-sham'd to come there again, you would make a *Paper War* of it——You would scold and rail of: No, no, we are before the Court, there the Affidavits and Certificates were sworn and produc'd: If Perjury or Forgery be in it, there they are lodg'd, you may have Justice: There we will bring the Perjur'd Man to be punish'd, the forg'd Orders and Certificates to be detected: Come there if you dare.

To say Answer in Print——We say we have Answer'd——When you cry out *Perjury*, we answer EXPERIMENT: When you say the Man is a Rogue, EXPERIMENT, the Author is a Forgerer, EXPERIMENT, the Experiment in short is an answer for it self; for it is only a Relation of Fact, which Fact has been prov'd in a Court of Justice, and sworn to, and the Party hissed out of Court——If they will have any more of it, let them come there again, we'll see them.

To say in Print it is a Perjury and Forgery, is to say they are Fools or Knaves: Knaves if they say false, and Fools if they say true: Not to come there again and retrieve their Honour; It is something like the Case of the French at the Battle of *Oudenard*, the Duke of *Marlborough* beat them there, *that was first*——We related the Victory in Print, and made Rejoycing for it——The *Tortes* banter'd us in Print, and said, 'twas no Victory, and we were beaten:

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